

02-07-00

A

jc490 U.S. PTO
02/04/00

PATENT
Docket No. 3802-4001
Express Mail Label No. EJ 604 726 355 US

jc525 U.S. PTO
09/498016
02/04/00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
UTILITY APPLICATION AND APPLICATION FEE TRANSMITTAL
(1.53(b))

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Named Inventor(s) and
Address(es):

EDWARD BALASSANIAN

For:

MEDIA ROUTING

Enclosed are:

☒ 31 page(s) of specification (excluding claims), 1 page(s) of Abstract, 11 page(s) of claims(claims 1-49)

☒ 14 sheets of drawing ☒ formal ☐ informal

☒ 6 page(s) of Declaration and Power of Attorney

☐ Unsigned

☒ Newly Executed

☐ Copy from prior application

☐ Deletion of inventors including Signed Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)(2)

☐ Incorporation by Reference: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the combined declaration and power of attorney is supplied herein, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is incorporated herein by reference.

☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)

☐ _____ page(s) of Sequence Listing

☐ computer readable disk containing Sequence Listing

☐ Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(f) that computer and paper copies of the Sequence Listing are the same

☐ Claim for Priority

☐ Certified copy of Priority Document(s)

☐ English translation documents

09498016 020400

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Copy of ____ cited references
- ☐ Copy of PTO-1449 filed in parent application serial No. _____.
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☐ Return receipt postcard (MPEP 503)
- ☐ Assignment Papers (assignment cover sheet and assignment documents)
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$40.00 for recording the Assignment.
- ☐ Assignment papers filed in parent application Serial No. _____.
- ☐ Certification of chain of title pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b).
- ☐ This is a ☐ continuation ☐ divisional ☐ continuation-in-part (C-I-P) of prior application serial no. _____.
- ☐ Cancel in this application original claims _____ of the parent application before calculating the filing fee. (At least one original independent claim must be retained for filing purposes.)
- ☐ A preliminary Amendment is enclosed. (Claims added by this Amendment have been properly numbered consecutively beginning with the number following the highest numbered original claim in the prior application.
- ☐ The status of the parent application is as follows:
- ☐ A Petition For Extension of Time and a Fee therefor has been or is being filed in the parent application to extend the term for action in the parent application until _____.
- ☐ A copy of the Petition for Extension of Time in the co-pending parent application is attached.
- ☐ No Petition For Extension of Time and Fee therefor are necessary in the co-pending parent application.
- ☐ Please abandon the parent application at a time while the parent application is pending or at a time when the petition for extension of time in that application is granted and while this application is pending has been granted a filing date, so as to make this application co-pending.
- ☐ Transfer the drawing(s) from the patent application to this application.
- ☐ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:
This is a ☐ continuation ☐ divisional ☐ continuation-in-part of co-pending application Serial No. _____ filed _____.

I. CALCULATION OF APPLICATION FEE (For Other Than A Small Entity)

	Number Filed		Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee
Total Claims	49	-20=	29	x\$18.00	\$522.00
Independent Claims	13	- 3=	10	x78.00	\$780.00
Multiple Dependent Claims					
	[] yes		Additional Fee =	\$260.00	
	[X] no		Add'l Fee =	NONE	\$

Total: \$ 2062.00

[X] A statement claiming small entity status is attached or has been filed in the above-identified parent application and its benefit under 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(a) is hereby claimed. Reduced fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(F) (50% of total) paid herewith \$ 1031.00.

[] A check in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the application filing fees is attached.


[X] Charge Fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 13-4500. Order No. 3802-4001. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

[X] The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for filing this application, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 3802-4001. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: February 4, 2000

By: 
Gerard A. Haddad
Registration No.: 41811

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10154
(212) 758-4800
(212) 751-6849 Facsimile

FORM: UTL-TRAN.NY
Rev. 11/13/98

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Edward Balassanian
Serial No. : To Be Assigned Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned
Filed : Herewith/February 4, 2000 Examiner: To Be Assigned
For : MEDIA ROUTING

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Express Mail Label No. EJ 604 726 355 US

Date of Deposit: February 4, 2000

I hereby certify that the following attached paper(s) and/or fee

1. Express Mail Certificate No. EJ 604 726 355 US;
2. Utility Application and Application Fee Transmittal (1.53(b)), (Filing Fee/Small Entity) (2 copies);
3. Patent Application pages of WRITTEN DESCRIPTION 31, PAGES OF ABSTRACT 1; PAGES OF CLAIMS 11, NO. OF CLAIMS 49, 14 PAGES OF DRAWINGS (Figures 1a, 1b, 2, 3a, 3b, 4-8, 9a, 9b, 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, 11, 12a, 12b);
4. Statement (Declaration) Claiming Small Entity Status 37 CFR § 1.97(f) and §1.27(c) – Small Business Concern;
5. Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney; and
6. SELF-ADDRESSED RETURN POSTCARD

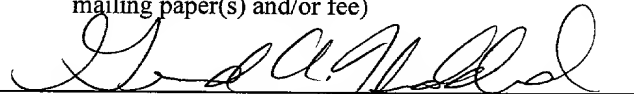
is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37

C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington,

D.C. 20231.

Gerard A. Haddad

(Typed or printed name of person
mailing paper(s) and/or fee)



(Signature of person mailing
paper(s) and/or fee)

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10154
(212) 758-4800
(212) 751-6849 Facsimile

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Edward Balassanian Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned
Serial No.: To Be Assigned Examiner: To Be Assigned
Filed : Herewith/February 4, 2000
For : MEDIA ROUTING

STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
37 CFR §1.97(f) AND §1.27 (c) – SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I hereby state that I am

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below

NAME OF CONCERN BECOMM CORPORATION

ADDRESS OF CONCERN 4160 148TH Avenue North East

Redmond, Washington 98052

I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR §§ 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR § 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both. I hereby state that exclusive rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention entitled:

MEDIA ROUTING

by Edward Balassian
(inventor)

described in

- ☒ the specification filed herewith
☐ application Serial No. _____, filed
☐ Patent No. _____, issued

NAME _____

[illegible]

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Edward Balassanian

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 12724 NE 94th CT, Kirkland WA., 98033

SIGNATURE DATE 2-4-00

-2-

[illegible]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

FOR:

INVENTOR:

EDWARD BALASSANIAN

Media Routing

Technical Field

The present invention relates generally to routing, transforming, and delivering media between
5 network resources.

Background

The Internet is a global communications network interconnecting a vast number of computers and networks via communications links. The Internet
10 represents a highly distributed system made up of routers and hosts. Hosts are computers that exist at the edges of the network and generate the traffic that routers in turn deliver to other hosts. An example of a host generating traffic is a computer using a web
15 browser specifying a request for a web page. Data sent from one host to another on the Internet might go through many routers before reaching its destination host.

Routers on the Internet make routing decisions
20 based on Internet Protocol (IP) address and knowledge gained from surrounding routers. An IP address is a unique number identifying every host connected to the Internet. Routers have ports, or physical connections, for sending and receiving data. Routers receive data,
25 examine the header information appended to the data for a destination address (for example, the IP address of the destination host), and compare the destination address against an internal database called a routing table. The routing table has information about which of
30 its ports data destined for a particular address should

be sent out. Thus, a data packet comes in one port of a router, its destination address is examined and compared to its routing table, and the data is then sent out a particular output port on its way to the next router (or
5 the destination host if that host is connected to this router).

Routers and hosts exist in subnets that are connected to other subnets, via routers, forming the Internet. New subnets can be added at any time, as can
10 faster routers. Since the Internet is inherently organic, addition of new components requires only localized changes and does not necessitate a massive network upgrade. The network, as represented by the Internet, is thus capable of automatically adjusting and
15 absorbing new functionality

In a typical client-server model on the Internet, a client computer first requests information from a server computer in the form of an HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) request. For example, the client
20 computer may request a particular web page from the server computer. The server computer needs the application to which the request is being sent running and listening for data at a particular port on the server. The server processes the HTTP request and
25 responds by sending the requested web page to the client in the form of an HTTP response.

Instead of a user at a client computer manually transmitting an HTTP request (for example, by typing in the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of a web
30 page address or by clicking on a link to a web page), Internet browsers on client computers can be configured to have web pages automatically "pushed" to them from

server computers. This is sometimes referred to as "subscribing" to a web site. Subscribing to a web site allows the information to which the user subscribed to be sent to the browser at regular intervals. This form of push technology still requires the client computer to issue an HTTP request for the information; the client web browser is configured by the user to automatically contact the server web site subscribed to at intervals specified by the user to check to see if information has been updated and if so, issue an HTTP request for the information. Therefore, it would be desirable to enable a computer on a network to send data to another computer without the recipient computer having to first request the information and without the recipient computer to have a particular application the data is destined for running and listening on a particular port.

Networks such as the Internet use addressing schemes such as Internet Protocol to uniquely identify every computer connected to the Internet. In the client-server environment, when a host sends the HTTP response to an HTTP request, the HTTP response is only sent to the client computer, and the client computer via an application such as a web browser decides how to handle the data, for example, by displaying the data on the screen in the form of a web page. However, the server computer can not control to which resource on the client (e.g., the screen, hard disk drive, or speakers) the data should be directed. Therefore, it would be desirable to have a system that allows a host to transmit data to a particular resource on another host.

Many different types of appliances, such as telephones and hand-held computers, are now being

connected to the Internet. Such appliances often have very little memory and have limited display capabilities. As a result, such appliances have difficulty processing high-bandwidth data. It would be desirable to have a system that can transmit data to such devices more efficiently so as not to overload the their limited capabilities.

Summary Of The Invention

As set forth below, a need exists for an improved method and system for routing data from a source resource on a source appliance across a network to a destination resource on a destination appliance. The method and system of the invention satisfies that problem.

According to one aspect of the invention, there is a method and system provided that routes data from a source resource on a source appliance to a destination appliance without specifying a specific destination resource on the destination appliance to which the data is routed. A mapping algorithm on the destination appliance determines the destination resource to which the data is routed. Alternatively, a particular destination resource is specified.

According to another aspect of the invention, the data can be routed from a source resource on a source appliance, to any number of intermediate resources on intermediate appliances, and finally to a destination resource on a destination appliance.

According to another aspect of the invention, a system and method is provided to discover the

appliances connected to the network, and to discover the resources connected to the appliances.

According to another aspect of the invention, a system and method is provided for a user to
5 selectively route data from a source resource on a source appliance to a destination appliance or a destination resource on the appliance.

Brief Description Of The Drawings

The accompanying drawings illustrate certain
10 embodiments of the invention.

Figs. 1a and 1b illustrate a system according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 illustrates a sample of the contents of a Table Of Known Appliances incorporated in the
15 embodiment as shown in Figs. 1a and 1b.

Fig. 3a illustrates a sample of the contents of a Table Of Resources On An Appliance incorporated in the embodiment as shown in Figs. 1a and 1b.

Fig. 3b illustrates a sample of the contents
20 of a Table Of Special Cases incorporated in the embodiment as shown in Figs. 1a and 1b.

Figs. 4 and 5 are flowcharts illustrating a process of discovering appliances and resources executed by the system shown in Figs. 1a and 1b.

Fig. 6 is a flowchart illustrating a process
25 of the user controlling the routing of data through the system shown in Figs. 1a and 1b.

Fig. 7 is a flowchart illustrating a process of routing data executed by the system shown in Figs. 1a
30 and 1b.

Fig. 8 is a flowchart illustrating a process of routing data executed by the system shown in Figs. 1a and 1b.

Figs. 9a and 9b illustrate sample user interfaces for routing data operating on the system shown in Figs. 1a and 1b.

Figs. 10a, 10b, 10c and 10d illustrate sample user interfaces for configuring resources operating on the system shown in Figs. 1a and 1b.

Fig. 11 illustrates a sample user interface for routing data operating on the system shown in Figs. 1a and 1b.

Fig. 12 is a flowchart illustrating a process of routing data executed by the system shown in Figs. 1a and 1b.

Detailed Description

Media Objects

A system is provided that encapsulates any resource on an appliance providing each resource with a common interface. An example of an appliance is a computer, and examples of resources on such an appliance are a speaker, a microphone, a screen, and a voice-to-text application. Each resource is encapsulated via object-oriented programming techniques. An encapsulated resource is referred to as a "media object". Once encapsulated, the only way to access the resource is through the media object. U.S. Patent Application No. 09/304,973 entitled "Method And System For Generating A Mapping Between Types Of Data" (the "mapping algorithm") and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/474,664 entitled "Method And System For Data Demultiplexing" (the "Demux

algorithm") (collectively referred to as the "conversion system"), incorporated herein by reference, discuss an intra-appliance conversion system which enables data output from one media object to be converted into a format suitable for input to a destination media object. The mapping algorithm determines the sequence of routines to process a stream of data. The Demux algorithm is the instantiation of state associated with the sequence of routines processing the stream of data.

Once the appliance is connected to a network, the same algorithms used to manage the routing of data intra-appliance can be applied to the routing of data between appliances. All resources, whether on a particular appliance or distributed across a network are treated as network resources. Network protocols such as TCP, IP and Ethernet can be encapsulated as media objects so that the problem of transferring data across a network is solved by the same conversion routines described in the aforementioned patent applications.

The resources on an appliance are treated as a subnet, and routing between two appliances becomes the same problem as routing between two subnets on the Internet. Much like an IP packet can visit multiple network hops, data can be routed through multiple appliances in the delivery of data from a start to an end point. The data can be transformed by the appliance at each hop. This distributes the processing of the data across all the appliances in the path. Further, since standard network protocols are used for inter-appliance communication, the system is able to extend its communications capabilities to appliances that do not have resources encapsulated as media objects.

Figure 1 shows an embodiment of a system incorporating the present invention. In general, the embodiment provides a method and apparatus for routing media from a source resource on a source appliance
5 connected to a network to a destination resource on a destination appliance connected to a network (sometimes referred to as "target resource" and "target appliance"). In this embodiment, the system includes the following appliances: computer 100, telephone 110,
10 television 115, thermostat 120, handheld computer 125 and printer 152. Each resource on appliances 100, 110, 115, 120 and 125 is encapsulated as a media object. Other resources encapsulated as media objects include the various networking protocols operating on each
15 appliance or interface, including TCP, IP, UDP, Ethernet, etc. The conversion system operates on processors 101, 127, 142 and 157.

Computer 100 includes a processor 101, memory 102, interface 130, and the following resources: speaker
20 103, disk drive 104, screen 105, microphone 106, keyboard 107, mouse 108, CD-ROM 109 and text-to-voice application 170.

Telephone 110 includes the following resources: microphone 111, speaker 112 and keypad 113.
25 Television 115 includes the following resources: screen 116, speaker 117 and keypad 118. Thermostat 120 includes the following resources: thermometer 121, display 122 and keypad 123. Computer 100 is connected to network 150 via interface 130. Interface 130 can be
30 an Ethernet adapter card or other network adapter. Appliances 110, 115 and 120 are connected to network 150 via interfaces or network adapters 140.

Network adapter 140 includes processor 142 and memory 144. Network adapter 140 encapsulates as media objects via standard object oriented programming techniques the resources available on each appliance to which it is connected. Each resource, once encapsulated as a media object, is thereby made available as a network resource available to any of the other network resources. The conversion system operates on network adapter 140.

Network 150 can be a local area network or other electronic network connecting appliances geographically close to one another. Network 150 is connected to gateway interface 155. Gateway interface 155 includes processor 157 and memory 158. Gateway interface 155 connects network 150 to network 160. Network 160 can be the Internet or other network. Gateway 165, computer 175, telephone 180, television 185 and thermostat 190, attached to LAN 195, all operate in the same manner and have the same resources as do the corresponding appliances attached to LAN 150.

Handheld computer 125 includes the following resources: memory 126, processor 127, monochrome screen 128 and speaker 129. Handheld computer 125 is connected to LAN 150 via network adapter 141. Network adapter 141 is an RF interface to LAN 150. The conversion system operates on network adapter 141.

Printer 152 is connected to network 150 and does not have the conversion system operating on it. Its resources are not encapsulated as media objects.

Media Routing

To route content from a source resource on a source appliance to a target appliance or target resource, information about the target appliance must be known to the source appliance to appropriately encapsulate the content. Figure 2 is an example of a Table of Known Appliances. The table is stored in the memory of the source appliance or is otherwise accessible to the source appliance. The table lists the following attributes about each appliance connected to the local network: appliance ID, which by example is the IP address of the appliance; a Friendly Name of the appliance, which is a name recognizable to a user, for example "Downstairs TV"; a Browse URL (Uniform Resource Locator) which is the URL of the page containing a menu which lists the resources on the appliance and lists the appliances and resources connected to that appliance (this menu is discussed in detail below with reference to the Figures 9a and 9b); Image URL, which contains the URL of the graphical image that might appear next to the Friendly Name of the appliance on a menu presented to a user, for example an image of a television; and the appliance routing address string, which contains the series of hops through which the data must be routed to place the data in a format that the destination appliance can read, for example, MediaRouter/UDP/IP. An example of such a routing address string is "MediaRouter(13)/TCP(0)(E, 9999)/IP(0)(-, 10.1.1.2)". Illustratively, data can be sent via HTTP, and the media router, which uses HTTP as its header, includes the source content-type, for example, image/GIF or text/HTML, and the content length representing the

number of bytes in the payload. The source content-type is used by the destination appliance's mapping engine to determine the target resource on the destination appliance.

5 To route content from a source resource on a source appliance to a destination resource on a destination appliance, information about the destination resource must be known to the source appliance to appropriately encapsulate the content for routing across
10 the network. Figure 3a is an example of a Table Of Resources On An Appliance. One of these tables in Figure 3a exists for each appliance listed in the Table Of Known Appliances. The Table Of Resources On An Appliance is stored in the memory of the source
15 appliance or is otherwise accessible to the source appliance. As illustrated in Figure 3a, the table lists the following attributes about the resources connected to an appliance: Resource Name, which is a name recognizable to a user, for example "Speaker"; a
20 Resource Image URL, which is the URL of the graphical image that appears next to the Resource Name; Configure URL, which is the URL of the web page containing the controls to configure the resource (Figs. 10a-10d, discussed below, are examples of such a web page); and
25 the Content-Type Address String, which contains the format of the type of media that the resource can process. Illustratively, data is sent via HTTP, and the HTTP media router, or header, includes the destination content-type address string, for example
30 RemoteTarget(Speaker). The destination content-type is used by the destination appliance's mapping algorithm to map the content to the specified resource.

If a particular resource on a destination appliance needs a special conversion routine performed on it prior to transmission depending on the type of source content, then an entry for that source content type will appear in the Table Of Special Cases in Figure 3b under the heading Source Media. The special target address string appears under the heading Special Address. For example, if the source content-type is GIF, and the target resource needs GIF translated to JPEG, then an entry may appear as shown in the Table Of Special Cases in Figure 3b with the following special routing address string:
"GIFtoJPEG/RemoteTarget(Screen)/MediaRouter/TCP/IP".
This entry is used as the routing address string in the header.

One embodiment allows data, or "content" to be routed from a source resource on one appliance to a target appliance without specifying to which resource on the target appliance the content is directed. For example, content such as JPEG from CD-ROM drive 109 on computer 100 can be routed to television 115. When the embodiment routes content from one appliance to another, it does so without having received a request from any of the targeted resources.

Routing data, or "content" such as audio or video from a source resource to a target appliance located across a network without specifying the target resource on the target appliance will now be described with reference to Figure 7. First, a header is built containing at least the source content-type and the destination appliance routing address string (Step 705). The source content-type describes the type of media the

data represents, for example, JPEG, MPEG, GIF, HTML, PCM, MP-3, etc. The destination appliance routing address is found in the table of known appliances. Next, the content is encapsulated in the header (Step 5 710). The mapping algorithm on the source appliance then determines, using the destination appliance routing address string, the series of conversion routines necessary to transmit the content to the destination appliance across the network (Step 712). Then the Demux 10 algorithm on the source appliance effects the conversion of the content for transmission across the network (Step. 714). The encapsulated content is then transmitted across the network to the destination appliance (Step 715). Upon receipt of the encapsulated 15 content, the destination appliance parses the header, identifying the source content-type from the information in the header (Step 720). The mapping algorithm then determines what the target content-type should be based on the available resources on this appliance, and 20 identifies the series of conversion routines to convert the source content-type to the target content-type (Step 725). Finally, the destination appliance converts the data from the source type to the target type using the Demux algorithm which routes the data through a sequence 25 of routines identified by the mapping algorithm to effect the conversion of the data to the target format (Step 730).

Thus, in the example of routing JPEG content from CD-ROM 109 to television 115, the user need not 30 specify that the content be routed to screen 116. Using the switchboard (described below with reference to Figures 9a and 9b), the user can direct that the content

from CD-ROM 109 be routed to television 115. The header is built containing at least the content-type, here JPEG, and the routing address string of television 115, which by example could be MediaRouter/UDP/IP. The

5 content is encapsulated in the header. The mapping and Demux algorithms operating on processor 101 use the routing address string of television 115 to determine the format to transmit the content, which by example uses the HTTP, UDP and IP protocols, and effect the

10 conversion. The mapping algorithm operating on interface 140 connected to television 115 then determines, based on the source content-type, how to best convert the content so it can be understood by one of the resources on television 115. In the example of

15 JPEG content from CD-ROM 109 transmitted to television 115, the mapping algorithm might determine that bit-map is the best content-type to which the content should be converted, and then the Demux algorithm would effect the conversion and the content would be displayed on the

20 screen.

Alternatively, the user can specify the particular resource on the destination appliance to which the content is to be routed. Routing content from a source resource on a source appliance to a specified

25 target resource on a target appliance will now be described with reference to Figure 8. First, a header is built containing the source content-type, the target appliance routing address string (obtained from the Table of Known Appliances in Figure 3a), and the target

30 content-type address string (from the Table of Resources On An Appliance) (Step 805). If the destination resource needs a particular content-type converted to

another content-type before receiving it, then the entry under Special Address from the Table of Special Cases in Figure 3b is used as the destination appliance routing address string instead of the entry found in the Table of Known Appliances. Next, the content is encapsulated in the header (Step 810). The mapping algorithm on the source appliance then determines, using the destination appliance routing address string and the content-type address string, the series of conversion routines necessary to transmit the content to the target resource on the target appliance (Step 812). Then the Demux algorithm on the source appliance effects the conversion of the content for transmission across the network (Step. 814). The encapsulated content is then transmitted across the network to the destination appliance (Step 815). Upon receipt of the encapsulated content, the destination appliance parses the header, identifying the source content-type and the target content-type from the information in the header (Step 820). The content-type address string identifies the targeted content-type. The mapping algorithm then determines the series of conversion routines to convert the source content-type to the target content-type (Step 825). Finally, the Demux algorithm effects the conversion of the content from the source content-type to the target content-type by executing the sequence of conversion routines determined by the mapping algorithm. (Step 830).

An example of the routing of data according to the steps in Figure 8 will now be described. The user may choose to send content from a text file, such as an HTML email, stored on disk drive 104 to speaker 112 on

telephone 110. The content would be routed as described above with reference to Figure 8 to interface 140 on telephone 110. The mapping algorithm running on interface 140 would recognize that one of the conversion routines necessary to convert HTML to PCM is a resource located on an appliance listed in its Table of Known Appliances (in Figure 1, the text-to-voice application is a resource on computer 100). The mapping algorithm on interface 140 would include text-to-voice application 170 in its series of conversion routines. The Demux algorithm on interface 140 would then route the content through the series of conversion routines specified by the mapping algorithm, including encapsulating the content in the appropriate header to transmit the content to text-to-voice application 170. Text-to-voice application 170 would then operate on the content to translate the HTML to PCM, and then the content is encapsulated in the appropriate header, sent through the series of conversion routines determined by the mapping algorithm, and transmitted back to speaker 112 on telephone 110 in accordance with the steps in Figure 8. The content would now be in PCM format, a format understood by speaker 112, and the HTML email is heard on speaker 112. Those skilled in the art will recognize that interface 140 on telephone 110 need not have a large amount of memory or processing capacity to store all possible conversion routines and convert all types of data; as long as a needed resource is available somewhere on the network, interface 140 can take advantage of the resources and processing power of other appliances on the network. This reduces the complexity and cost of interface 140.

In another example, the user may choose to send color video content from CD-ROM 109 on computer 100 to monochrome screen 126 on handheld computer 125. The content would be routed as described above with reference to Figure 8. Importantly, the content-type address string found in the Table Of Resources (Figure 3a) for the monochrome speaker is RemoveColor/RemoteTarget(Screen). RemoveColor indicates to the mapping algorithm on Computer 100 to include in the series of conversion routines a routine to strip out the color from the video stream content, thereby reducing the bandwidth necessary to transmit the content to handheld computer 125, and reducing the processing power necessary on handheld computer 100.

In another example, the user can transmit content from a source resource located across a wide area network (WAN) to a target gateway interface, and the mapping and Demux algorithms operating on the gateway interface determine how the source content should be converted based on the appliances and resources connected to the LAN. The user on a WAN only needs to know the network address of the gateway interface. The gateway interface then determines how to best handle the arriving content from the WAN, which can be determined on-the-fly through the mapping algorithm on gateway interface or set by the home user through a pre-determined mapping (for example, the home user may want all video mapped to his computer screen). Such an example will now be described with reference to Figure 1. A user at computer 175 might choose to transmit content from the CD-ROM on his computer to the home of the person located at gateway interface 155, but the

sender does not care how the content is processed once it arrives. This example is similar to that described with reference to Figure 7 above. The content is encapsulated in a header containing the target appliance routing address string, which here is the routing address string of gateway interface 155, and transmitted across LAN 195, through gateway interface 165, across WAN 160 to gateway interface 155. The mapping algorithm operating on gateway interface 155 determines the sequence of conversion routines to convert the CD-ROM content-type to an appropriate target content-type suitable for one of the appliances connected to LAN 150. Alternatively, the home user can set the mapping engine in gateway interface 155 to

Alternatively, the user at computer 175 can access the switchboard (described below with reference to Figures 9a and 9b) of gateway interface 155 to see the appliances and resources connected to LAN 150. By accessing the switchboard, the user can select the particular appliance on LAN 150, or resource on an appliance connected to LAN 150, to which content can be directed from computer 175.

Another embodiment will now be described with reference to Figure 12. In this embodiment, content may be routed from a source resource to a destination resource making hops to other appliances along the route. First, the source content-type and destination content-type are examined by the mapping engine on the source appliance to determine the series of conversion routines necessary to convert the source content-type to the destination content-type. If the mapping algorithm determines that a resource located on an appliance other

than the source or destination appliance is needed to convert the content to the appropriate format for the destination appliance, then the mapping algorithm will indicate that the routing address string for this

5 intermediate appliance in the header must be included in the header (Step 1202) Next, a header is built containing the source content-type, destination appliance routing address string, destination content-type address string, and any routing address strings for

10 other appliances the content must be routed through along the way to the destination appliance, referred to as intermediate appliances (Step 1205). Next, the content is encapsulated in the header (Step 1210). Then the Demux algorithm on the source appliance effects the

15 conversion of the content for transmission across the network to the next intermediate appliance (Step 1215). The encapsulated content is then transmitted across the network to the next intermediate appliance (Step 1220). The intermediate appliance parses the header, and

20 identifies the source content-type and destination content-type from the information in the header (Step 1225). Then the mapping algorithm operating on the intermediate appliance identifies the series of routines to convert the source content-type to the destination

25 content-type, or to convert the source content-type to an intermediate content-type (Step 1230). The intermediate content-type might be the output of a series of conversions that must occur to convert the source content-type to the destination content-type.

30 Next, the Demux algorithm effects the conversion routines identified by the mapping algorithm in step 1230 (Step 1235). If the content is on the destination

appliance, then it is routed to the destination resource on the appliance (Steps 1240 and 1245). If the content is not at the destination appliance, then the header is stripped of this intermediate appliance's routing address string, and the source content-type is changed to content-type of the output of the conversion routine on this appliance (Steps 1240 and 1248), the content is transmitted to the next appliance indicated in the header (Step 1250), and the flowchart loops back up to Step 1225. The flowchart continues this loop until the content has been routed through all the appliances necessary to convert the source content-type to the destination content-type.

An example following the steps of Figure 12 will now be discussed. A user might wish to route sound from microphone 111 on telephone 110 to screen 116 on television 115. To accomplish this, the mapping engine on interface 140 connected to telephone 110 would identify the series of conversion routines to convert the microphone's PCM content-type to the television screen's bitmap content-type. One of these identified conversion routines, text-to-voice/voice-to-text application 170, is encapsulated as a media object on computer 100. Since all resources encapsulated as media objects on the network are listed in the various Tables Of Resources, they are available to the mapping algorithm as if they were on the source appliance itself. The mapping algorithm would include computer 100 as an intermediate hop to which the content will be routed. Once the message is received by computer 100, its header is examined and the mapping algorithm operating on computer 100 would determine from the

source content-type of PCM and the destination content-type of bitmap that the content needs to be routed through voice-to-text application 170. The Demux algorithm operating on computer 100 would effect the
5 conversion of the content. The header would be stripped of computer 100's routing address string, and the source content-type in the header would be updated to reflect conversion of the content to "text". The message would be transmitted across the network to television 115.
10 Network adapter 140 on television 115 is the last hop in the series of appliances the content was routed through. The header would be parsed, and the mapping algorithm would map the source content-type, which is now "text", to the destination content-type of bitmap, and the Demux
15 algorithm would effect the conversion. The content would then be routed to screen 116.

Switchboard

The switchboard is the user interface on an appliance which is used to map content from one
20 appliance or resource to another, and is used to configure resources. Each appliance has its own switchboard. One embodiment of a switchboard is shown in Figures 9a and 9b. The switchboard for a particular appliance may be a web page displayed in a web browser
25 showing on the left side of the screen the list of resources on the appliance that are sources of content, and on the right side a list of appliances known to this appliance, that is, those appliances appearing in the Table Of Known Appliances shown in Figure 2. Further,
30 the switchboard can display the resources on each known appliance capable of receiving content. The switchboard

is used to direct content from a source resource listed on the left of the switchboard to a target appliance, or target resource on an appliance, listed on the right of the switchboard as shown in Figures 9a and 9b.

5 The switchboard is also used to access the controls for resources. When a user clicks on the name of a resource, the browser accesses the URL of the resource stored in the Table of Resources On An Appliance (Figure 3a). For example, a user clicking on
10 a speaker resource would see a volume control pop up in the browser such as that shown in Figure 10A. Figures 10b, 10c and 10d are additional examples of controls for resources.

 In this embodiment, the user can remotely
15 access the switchboard of any appliance. This is referred to as "browsing" the appliance. For example, the user sitting at computer 100 would initially see the switchboard shown in Figure 9a. If the user wanted to map incoming telephone calls from telephone 110 to
20 television 115, the user would click on the word "telephone". This causes the browser to access the URL of the telephone's switchboard stored in the Table Of Known Appliances under the Browse URL heading, and to display the telephone's switchboard as shown in Figure
25 9b. The user now has full remote control over the resources on the telephone. Using this method, the various appliances such as the telephone that have no screen and limited input controls can be browsed and configured. Further, any appliance on the network can
30 be remotely controlled and configured from one location on the network just by accessing the switchboard for the appliance.

In another example, the user at computer 175 can control thermostat 120 from computer 175. This is done by the user at computer 175 accessing the switchboard on gateway interface 155, which would show the thermostat on the right side of the switchboard, and then selecting the thermostat, which would display the switchboard of the thermostat (the URL of the thermostat switchboard is stored in the Table of Known Appliances on gateway interface 155 under the heading Browse URL in Figure 2). The thermostat switchboard lists the keypad as a source of content on the left side of the screen. Selecting the keypad accesses the URL of the keypad controls, which can look like that shown in Fig 10c. The user at computer 175 then has access to the controls of thermostat 120.

An alternate embodiment of a switchboard is shown in Figure 11. In this embodiment, each appliance can generate a switchboard. Such a switchboard provides a list of all sources of content in the network and a list of all the destinations for content on the network. At the top of the screen as shown in Figure 11, the switchboard displays icons representing source categories of content such as "email", "music", or "movies", for a user to choose as a source. For example, "music" for the user's music compact disks. When "music" is selected, the list of music titles is displayed, and the user can now select from the list to map a favorite song to a target appliance, a target resource, or a target content-type.

In another embodiment, the screen displays categories of sources content, such as Devices, Music, etc. When the user selects a category, the user is then

presented with sub-categories of content. For example, if the user selects the "Music" category, then the user is presented with the sub-categories "Jazz", "Rock", "Classical", etc. When the user selects one of the sub-

5 categories of content, the user is presented with a list of content on the left of the screen, and a list of destinations on the network that can accept such content on the right side of the screen. For example, if the user selects Jazz, then on the left side of the screen

10 the user will be presented with a list of Jazz songs available somewhere on the network, for example on compact disks in various stereos on the network. On the right side of the screen the user is presented with a list of the destination resources on the network that

15 can accept audio content, for example, the speakers on a television, the speakers on a stereo, the speaker on a telephone, etc. In another example of this embodiment, if the user chooses the category "Devices", the user is presented with a list of sub-categories of devices on

20 the network that can be sources of content. Examples of such sub-categories are "microphones", "pointing devices", etc. If the user chooses "microphones", then a list of all the microphones on the network are displayed on the left side of the screen, and a list of

25 all the resources on the network that can accept microphone content, such as the speakers on a stereo or the speakers on a television are displayed on the right side of the screen. The user can map a source of content on the left side of the screen, such as a song,

30 to a destination resource on the right side of the screen, such as the speaker on a television by clicking on them with a pointing device. This instructs the

mapping algorithm to identify the series of routines to
convert the source content to the destination content,
and to store the identification of the series of
routines in memory. This is referred to as a cached
5 mapping.

The user's ability to control the routing of
content from a source resource on a source appliance to
a target resource on a target appliance will now be
described with reference to Figure 6. The user located
10 at an appliance activates the switchboard, displaying
the list of resources on the appliance the user is
physically using and the list of other appliances on the
network discovered through the discovery process as
described above with reference to Figure 4 and 5 are
15 hard-coded by an administrator. The user then selects a
source appliance, which displays the switchboard of the
source appliance identified by the Browse URL stored in
the table of known appliances (Step 605).

The list of resources on the source appliance
20 is displayed at step 610. The user then selects a
source resource (Step 615). An example of a source
resource is a CD-ROM player. Next, the user examines
the list of target appliances listed on the switchboard
(Step 620), and selects a target appliance (Step 625).
25 The user could stop here and jump to Step 650 to
configure the source resource to begin transmitting the
data (described below) to the appliance, thereby letting
mapping algorithm on the target appliance decide to what
resource on the target appliance the data should be
30 directed. The target appliance directs data to default
resources depending on the content-type the data
represents based on the mapping algorithm. For example,

media of source content-type PCM might be mapped by the mapping algorithm to a speaker.

However, the user might want the PCM data (generated by a microphone on the source device) to be
5 directed to the screen on the target appliance. To do so, the user would continue on to Step 630 and examine the list of resources on the target appliance capable of receiving input. The user then selects at target resource from the list (Step 635). This causes the
10 switchboard to cache the path to the targeted resource as described in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/304,973 entitled "Method And System For Generating A Mapping Between Types Of Data".

At step 640, the user browses the source
15 resource by accessing the web page identified in the Table Of Resources On An Appliance by the entry under Configure URL for this resource stored in the table of known appliances. The user then configures the source resource to begin transmitting the content (Step 650).
20 For example, one embodiment of the web page for configuring a CD-ROM is shown in Figure 10d. When the web page is accessed, the controls for a CD-ROM such as play, stop, fast forward and rewind are displayed in the page for the user to control.

25 Discovery Process

The information about each appliance (referred to below as "Info") stored in the Table Of Known Appliances (Figure 2), Table Of Resources On An Appliance (Figure 3a) and Table Of Special Cases (Figure
30 3b) can be hard-coded into the tables and stored on each appliance by an administrator, or they can be discovered

via a discovery process and stored on each appliance.
One example of a discovery process is described below.

Figures 4 and 5 are two independent threads running concurrently on an appliance (or running on a
5 network adapter 140 attached to the appliance). Figure 4 is a flowchart representing the thread that listens for messages, and when a message is received, sets the appropriate flags or counters as described below. Figure 5 is a flowchart representing the thread that
10 examines the flags and counters and decides how to act on them.

The first thread in the discovery process will now be described with reference to Figure 4. At step
405, the thread waits for a message. When a message is
15 received from another appliance, it is checked to see what kind of message it is. At step 410, the message is checked to see if it is an Info message. An Info message, described in detail below, contains information about the appliance, including the resources attached to
20 it and instructions detailing how to send data to the appliance and its resources. If it is an Info message, then at Step 415 the contents of the Info message are entered into the Table of Known Appliances and the Table of Resources for that appliance, and Table of Special
25 Cases (Figures 2, 3a and 3b). This table is stored in the receiving appliance's memory 102 or 144. After steps 415, 425 435, 450 or 455 have been completed, thread then loops back to step 405 to wait for the next message.

30 If the message is not an Info message, then at step 420 the message is examined to see if it is a Hello message. Hello is a signal that an appliance broadcasts

across the network to which it is attached upon power-up that signals to the other appliances on the network to broadcasts their Info message. Hello messages from all appliances are identical. This enables the newly
5 powered-up appliance to populate its Table of Known Appliances and Table of Resources for each appliance with information about each appliance attached to the network. If the message is a Hello message, then at step 425 the Hello Flag is set to 1. The Hello flag is
10 stored in memory 102 in the appliance or in memory 144 in network interface 140 attached to the appliance. After setting the Hello flag, the thread loops back to step 405 to wait for the next message.

If the message is not a Hello message, then at
15 step 430 the message is examined to see if it is a Leave message. If the message is a Leave message, then at step 435 the Leave Flag is set to 1 for the appliance that sent the message. This flag can be stored in the Table of Known Appliances as shown in Figure 2. After
20 setting the Leave flag, the thread loops back to step 405 to wait for the next message.

If the message is not a Leave message, then at step 440 the message is examined to see if it is a Heartbeat message. If the message is a Heartbeat
25 message, then at step 445 it is checked to see if the Heartbeat is from a known appliance. If the Heartbeat is from a known appliance, then the Heartbeat counter for that appliance is reset to a pre-defined level, for example, 6 (Step 450). The Heartbeat counter can be
30 stored in the Table of Known Appliances as shown in Figure 2. If the Heartbeat is from an unknown appliance, then at step 455 the Unknown Appliance flag

is set. The Unknown Appliance flag can be stored in memory 102 in the appliance or in memory 144 in network interface 140 attached to the appliance.

The discovery process on an appliance will now
5 be described with reference to Figure 5. At step 505,
an appliance powers up. An appliance is anything
connected to a local network capable of identifying
itself to the network. Examples are computers, DVD
players, telephones, televisions, and PDAs. The
10 appliance then broadcasts a "Hello" message. Hello is a
signal that a machine broadcasts across the local
network upon power up, which signals to the other
appliances on the network to broadcast their "Info"
messages (Step 507). The appliance then broadcasts its
15 "Info" message across the local network (Step 508) which
received by the other appliances on the local network.
In response to receiving the Hello message from the
appliance, the other appliances on the local network
send their Info messages across the local network which
20 are received by the appliance as described above with
reference to Figure 4.

The appliance then checks to see if the Hello
flag is set to 1 (Step 510). If so, then the appliance
broadcasts its Info message across the network and sets
25 the Hello flag to 0 (Steps 515 and 516). If not, then
the appliance broadcasts its "Heartbeat" (Step 520).
The Heartbeat is a message sent from each appliance
indicating that the appliance is still connected to the
local network. It contains a unique ID for each
30 appliance. An example of the unique ID is the IP
address.

5

10

15

25

30

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be

Claims

What is claimed is:

1 1. A system for routing data across a
2 network, comprising:
3 a source appliance;
4 a destination appliance connected to the
5 source appliance via a network;
6 data of a particular source content-type
7 to be transmitted across the network from the source
8 appliance to the destination appliance; and
9 a header appended to the data, the header
10 comprising a destination appliance routing address
11 string and the source content-type.

1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the
2 destination appliance further comprises a processor, the
3 processor using a mapping algorithm operating on the
4 data to identify the destination content-type based on
5 the source content-type and to identify the series of
6 routines necessary to convert the source content-type to
7 the destination content type.

1 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the
2 processor further uses a demultiplexing algorithm
3 operating on the data to effect the conversion of the
4 content from the source content-type to the destination
5 content type.

1 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the header
2 further comprises a destination content-type.

1 5. The system of claim 4 wherein the header
2 further comprises an intermediate content-type.

1 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the header
2 further comprises an intermediate content-type.

1 7. The system of claim 1 wherein the header
2 further comprises an intermediate appliance routing
3 address string.

1 8. The system of claim 7 further comprising
2 an intermediate appliance having a resource for
3 converting the data from the source content-type to the
4 destination content-type.

1 9. The system of claim 1 further comprising:
2 a memory device connected to the source
3 appliance; and
4 a table of information stored in the
5 memory device comprising a destination appliance routing
6 address string.

1 10. The system of claim 9 wherein the table
2 further comprises a destination content-type.

1 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the header
2 further comprises an intermediate appliance routing
3 address string.

```

1      12.  A system for routing data across a
2  network, comprising;
3      a source appliance;

```


4 a source resource connected to the source
5 appliance;

6 a destination appliance connected to the
7 source appliance via a network; and

8 a table of information stored in a memory
9 device connected to the source appliance comprising the
10 destination appliance routing address string and a
11 destination resource content-type.

1 13. The system of claim 12 further comprising
2 a destination resource connected to the destination
3 appliance.

1 14. The system of claim 13 wherein the
2 destination resource is encapsulated as a media object.

1 15. The system of claim 12 further
2 comprising:
3 a header appended to the data, wherein
4 the header encapsulates the data, and wherein the header
5 comprises a destination appliance routing address string
6 and a source content-type.

1 16. The system of claim 15 wherein the header
2 further comprises a destination content-type.

1 17. The system of claim 15 wherein the header
2 further comprises an intermediate appliance routing
3 address string.

1 18. The system of claim 17 wherein the header
2 does not contain information identifying the source
3 appliance.

8 converting the source content-type to the
9 target content-type.

1 24. The method of claim 22 wherein the header
2 further comprises a destination content-type address
3 string.

1 25. The method of claim 24 wherein the header
2 further comprises an intermediate appliance routing
3 address string.

1 26. A method comprising:
2 receiving a message from a network, the
3 message having a header and content;
4 parsing the header to identify a source
5 content-type; and
6 determining a destination content-type.

1 27. The method of claim 26 wherein the
2 destination content-type is determined via a mapping
3 algorithm.

1 28. The method of claim 27 further
2 comprising:
3 effecting the conversion of the content
4 from the source content-type to the destination content-
5 type.

1 29. The method of claim 28 wherein the
2 conversion of the content is effected by a
3 demultiplexing algorithm.

1 30. A method comprising:

000020-97000000

2 receiving a message from a network, the
3 message having a first header and content;
4 parsing the first header to identify a
5 source content-type and a destination content-type;
6 converting the content to an intermediate
7 content-type;
8 encapsulating the content in a second
9 header, the second header comprising an intermediate
10 content-type and a destination content-type; and
11 transmitting the message across the
12 network to a destination appliance.

1 31. The method of claim 30 wherein the first
2 header comprises a source content-type address string, a
3 destination content-type address string, an intermediate
4 appliance routing address string, and a destination
5 appliance address string.

1 32. The method of claim 31 wherein the second
2 header comprises an intermediate content-type address
3 string, a destination content-type address string, and a
4 destination appliance routing address string.

1 33. A network adapter connected between an
2 appliance and a network, comprising:
3 a memory device; and
4 a first table stored in the memory device
5 comprising information identifying a destination
6 appliance connected to the network, and routing
7 information corresponding to the destination appliance.

1 34. The network adapter of claim 33 further
2 comprising:

3 a second table stored in the memory
4 device identifying a resource on the destination
5 appliance.

1 35. A gateway interface connected between a
2 first network and a second network comprising:
3 a memory device;
4 a first table stored in the memory device
5 comprising information identifying a destination
6 appliance connected to the first network and routing
7 information corresponding the destination appliance.

1 36. The gateway interface of claim 33 further
2 comprising a second table of information stored in the
3 memory device identifying a resource on the destination
4 appliance.

1 37. A method for routing content, comprising:
2 receiving source resource information;
3 receiving destination appliance
4 information;
5 determining the destination appliance
6 routing address string; and
7 transmitting the content from a source
8 resource to a destination appliance based on the
9 destination appliance routing address string.

1 38. The method of claim 37 further
2 comprising:
3 receiving a request for a web page
4 containing controls for the source resource;
5 transmitting the web page to the screen;

6 receiving signals to configure the source
7 resource to transmit the content.

1 39. A system for routing content, comprising:
2 a processor
3 a screen connected to the processor;
4 a memory device connected to the
5 processor;
6 a list of source resources displayed on
7 the screen;
8 a list of destination appliances
9 displayed on the screen;
10 a signal to the processor indicating one
11 of the source resources displayed on the screen was
12 selected;
13 a signal to the processor indicating one
14 of the destination appliances displayed on the screen
15 was selected; and
16 a table stored in the memory device
17 having an entry for a destination appliance routing
18 address corresponding to selected destination appliance.

1 40. A user interface, comprising:
2 a screen;
3 categories of sources of content
4 displayed on the screen;
5 subcategories of sources of content
6 displayed on the screen corresponding to a selected
7 category displayed on the screen;
8 a list of content displayed on the screen
9 corresponding to a selected subcategory; and

10 a list of destinations displayed on the
11 screen capable of receiving the content.

1 41. A method for discovering appliances on a
2 network, comprising:
3 receiving a first message from an
4 appliance connected to the network;
5 if the message contains information
6 indicating how to route data to the appliance, then
7 placing an entry of the information into
8 a table;
9 if the message is requesting routing
10 information from other appliances, then
11 broadcasting routing information across
12 the network;

1 42. The method of claim 41 further
2 comprising:
3 if the message is requesting routing
4 information, then
5 broadcasting a signal containing
6 information describing how to route content to the
7 appliance.

1 43. The method of claim 42 wherein the
2 routing information includes a signal containing
3 information about a resource on the appliance.

1 44. The method of claim 42 further
2 comprising:
3 if the message indicates that the
4 appliance is leaving the network, then

5 removing the entry for the appliance from
6 the table.

1 45. The method of claim 44 further
2 comprising:
3 if the message is a signal indicating
4 that the appliance is present on the network and the
5 appliance has no entry in the table, then
6 broadcasting a request across the network
7 to the appliance asking the appliance to broadcast
8 information describing how to route content to the
9 appliance.

1 46. The method of claim 45 further
2 comprising:
3 if a specified time period has passed and
4 no signal has been received from the appliance
5 indicating that the appliance is still connected to the
6 network, then removing the entry for the appliance from
7 the table.

1 47. A system for discovering appliances on a
2 network comprising:
3 a network;
4 a first appliance connected to the
5 network; and
6 a signal received by the first appliance
7 from a second appliance connected to the network, the
8 signal including routing information to route content to
9 the second appliance and including the identity of the
10 second appliance.

00000-91000000

1 48. The system of claim 47 further
2 comprising:

3 a table stored in a memory on the first
4 appliance into which the routing information is entered.

1 49. The system of claim 48 wherein the signal
2 includes information indicating the resources on the
3 second appliance capable of receiving or transmitting
4 content.

004020 91030700

[illegible][illegible]

- Abstract**

Figure 1a

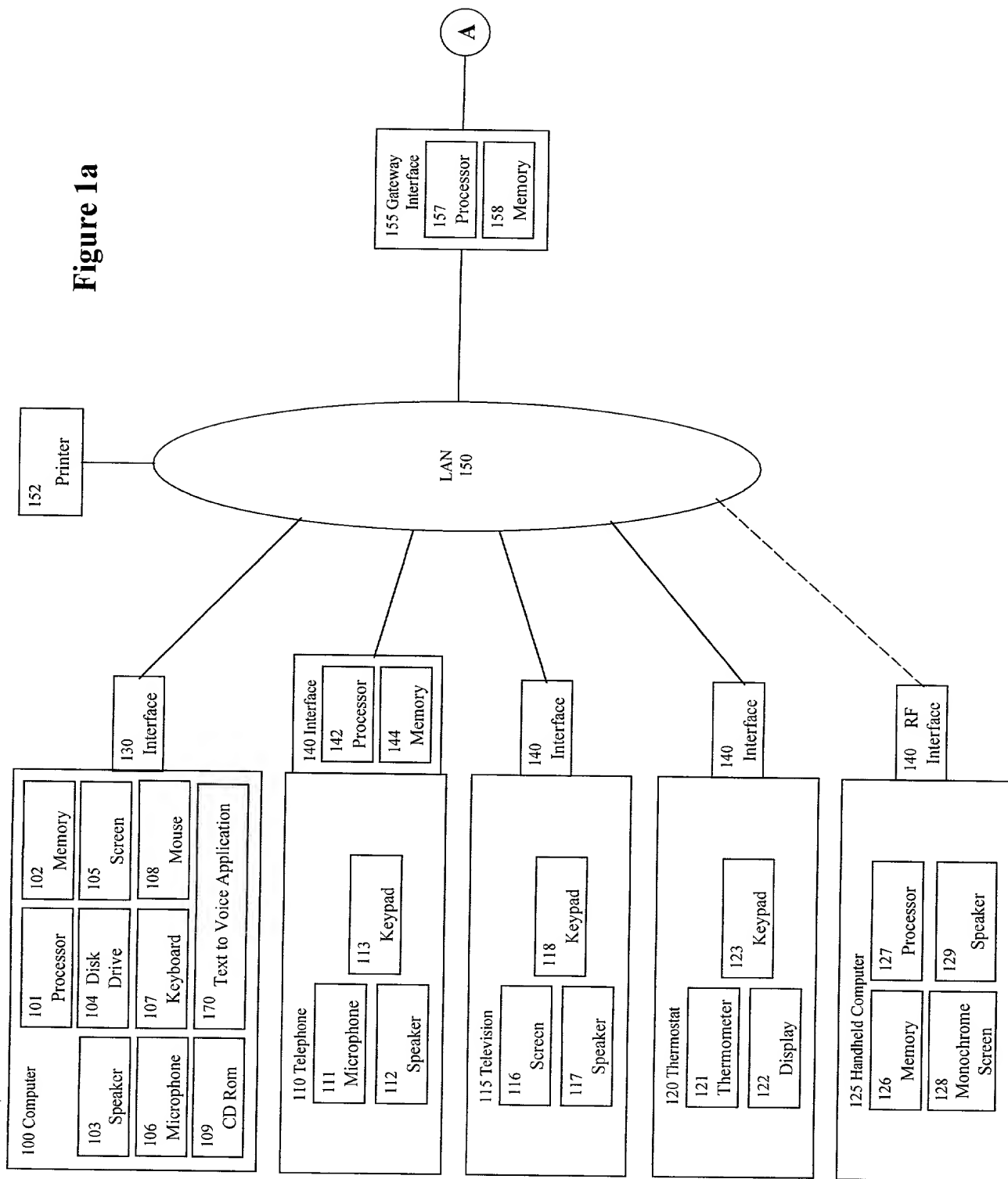


Figure 1b

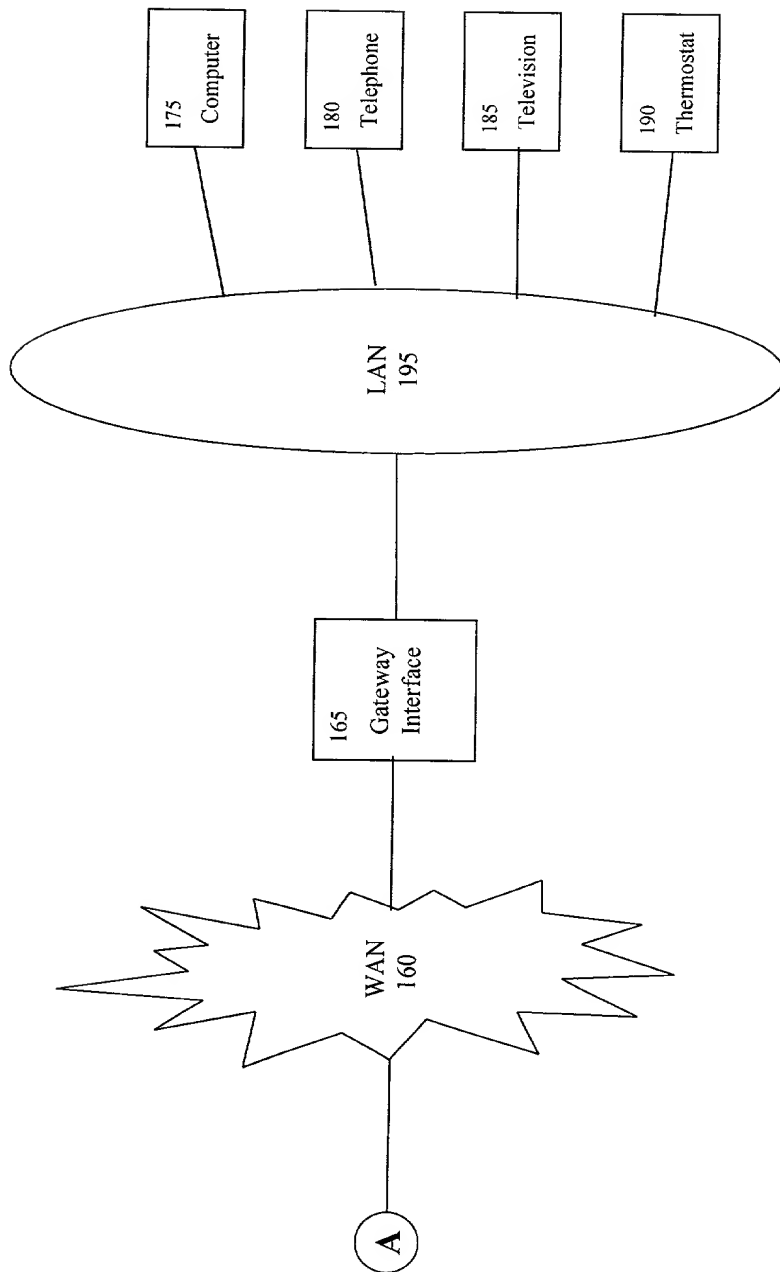


FIGURE 3a

Table of Resources On An Appliance

Resource Name	Resource Image URL	Configure URL	Content Type Address String
Monochrome Screen	http://.../monitor.gif	http://.../monitor.html	RemoveColor/RemoteTarget (Screen)
Speaker	http://.../monitor.gif	http://.../volume.html	RemoteTarget (Speaker)

FIGURE 3b

Table of Special Cases

Source Media	Special Address
GIF	GIFtoJPEG/RemoteTarget (Screen)/MediaRouter/TCP/IP

Figure 4

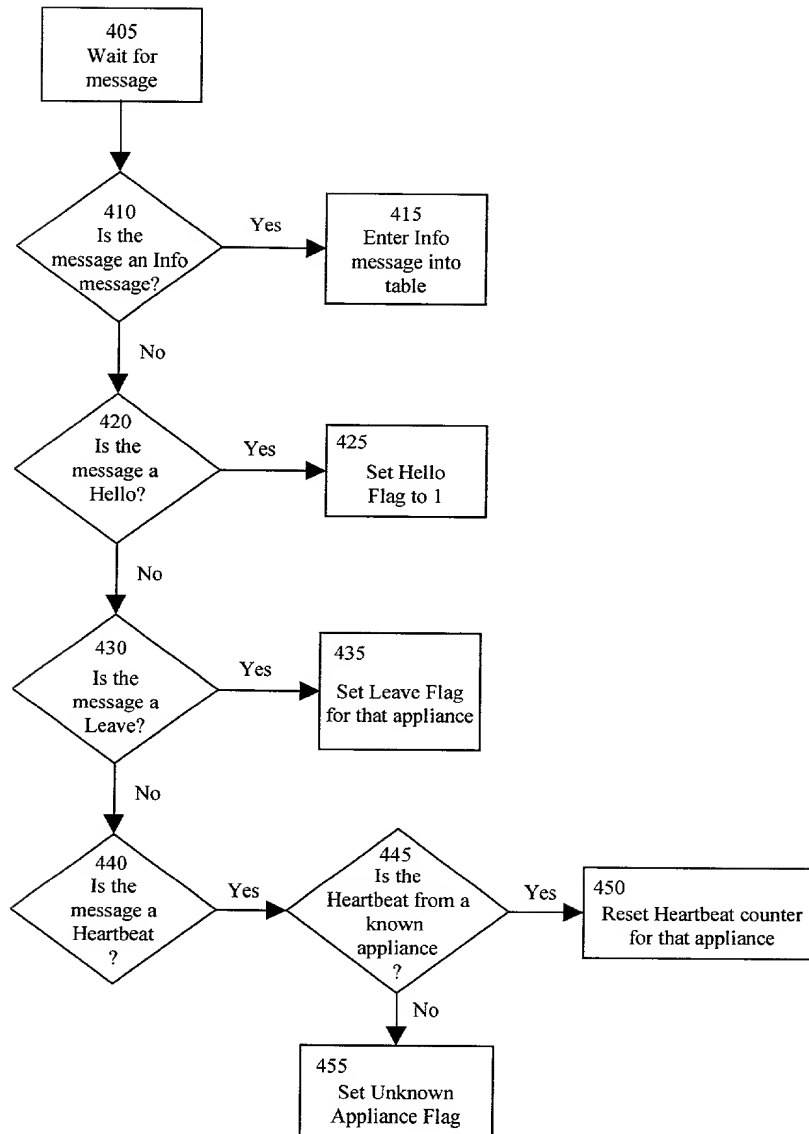


Figure 5

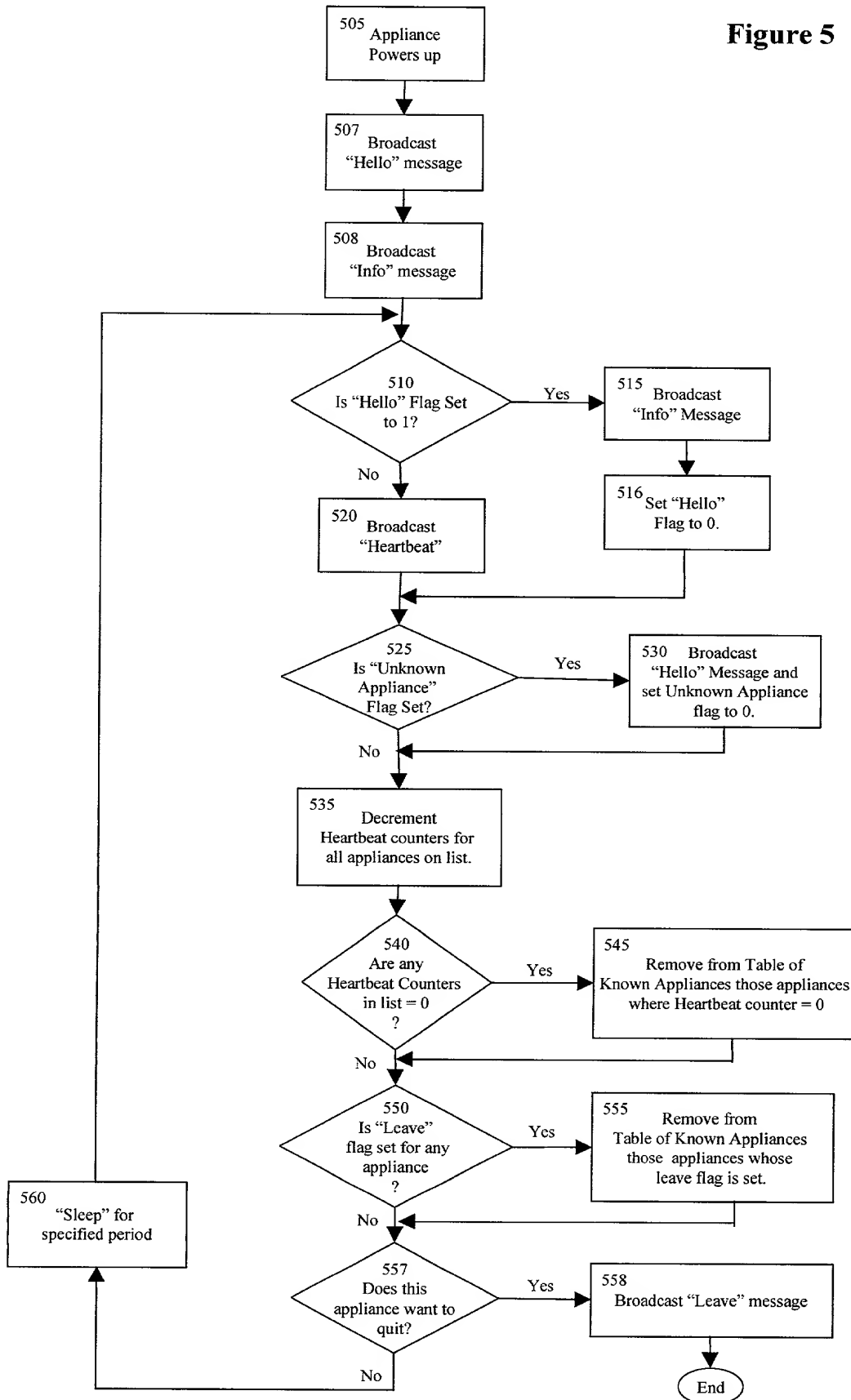


Figure 6

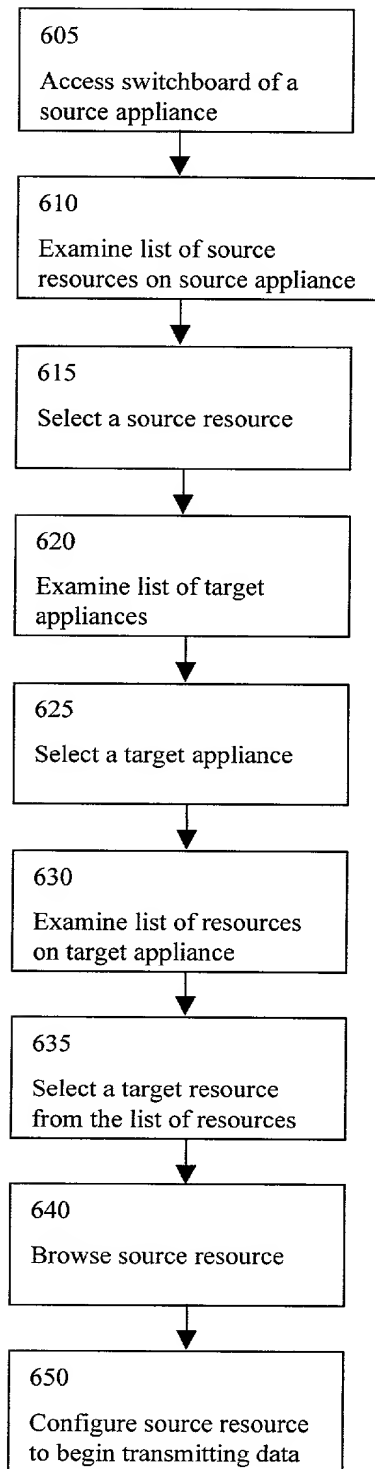


Figure 7

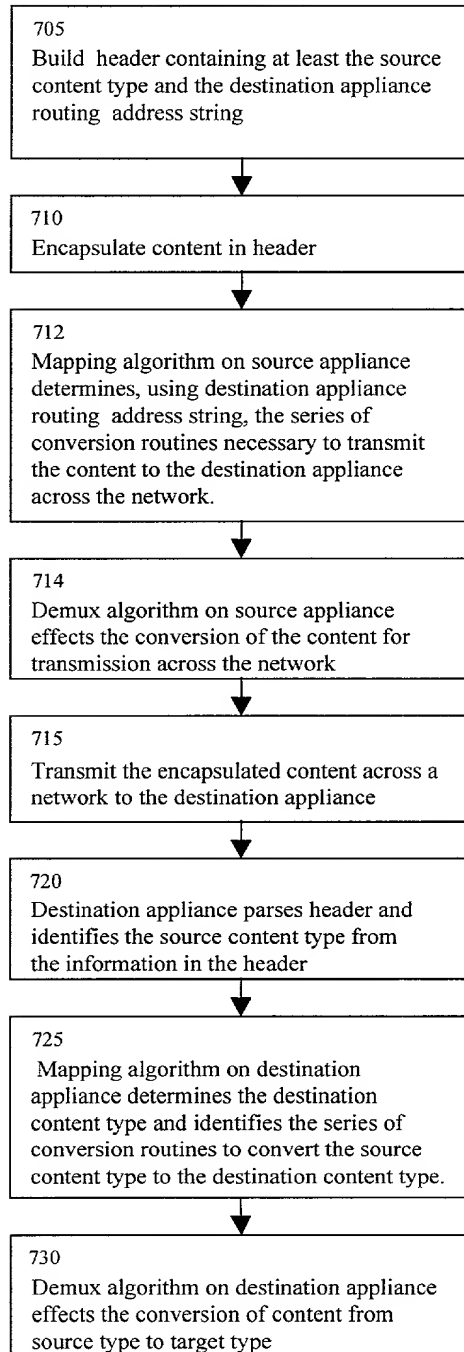


Figure 8

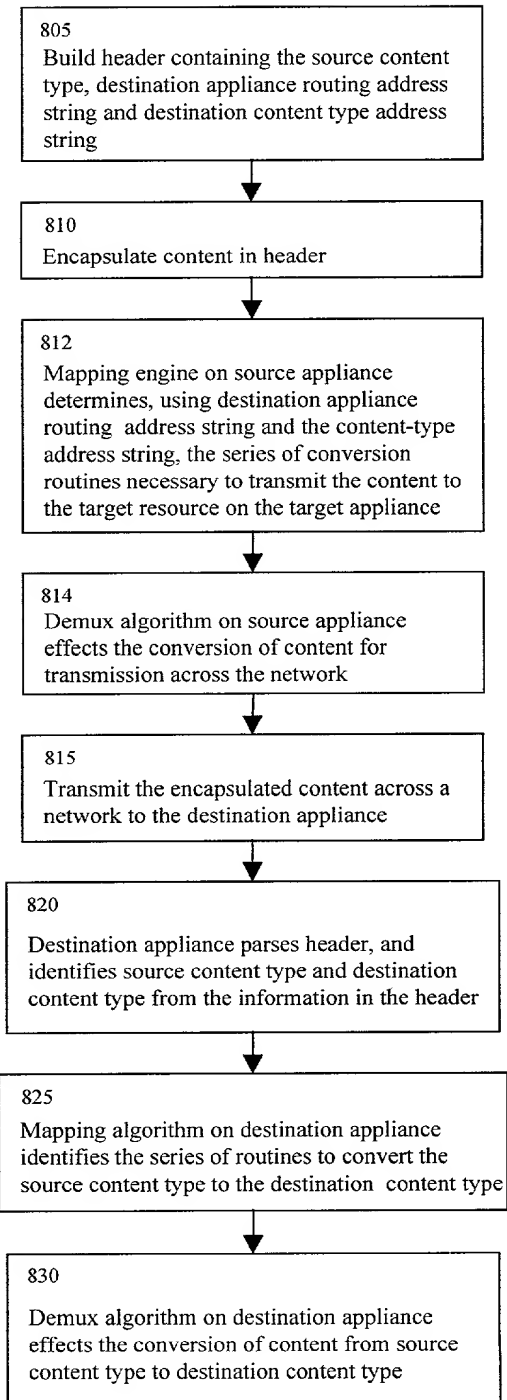


Figure 9A

Switchboard for Computer 101

<u>Sources</u>	<u>Targets</u>
Den PC	Den PC
CD Rom	Screen
Disk Drive	Speaker
Mouse	Disk Drive
Keyboard	Telephone
Microphone	Speaker
	Downstairs TV
	Screen
	Speaker
	Thermostat
	Handheld Computer
	Monochrome Screen
	Speaker

Figure 9B

Switchboard for Telephone 110

<u>Sources</u>	<u>Targets</u>
Telephone	Telephone
Microphone	Speaker
Keypad	Den PC
Speaker	Screen
	Speaker
	Disk Drive
	Microphone
	Downstairs TV
	Screen
	Speaker
	Thermostat
	Handheld Computer
	Monochrome Screen
	Speaker

FIG 10a

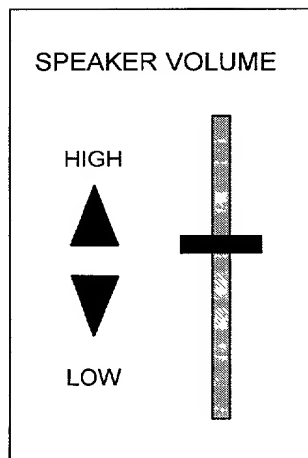


FIG 10b

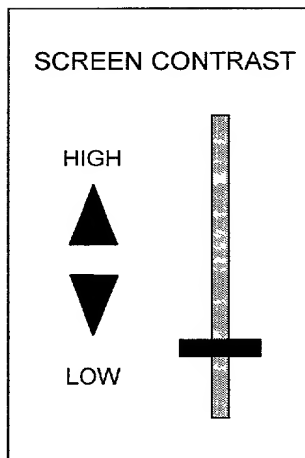


FIG 10c

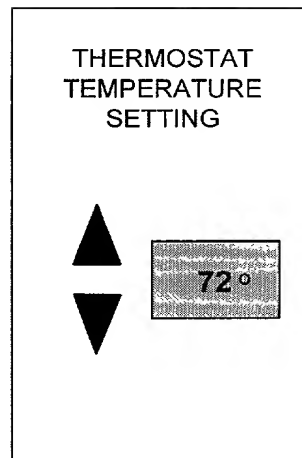


FIG 10d

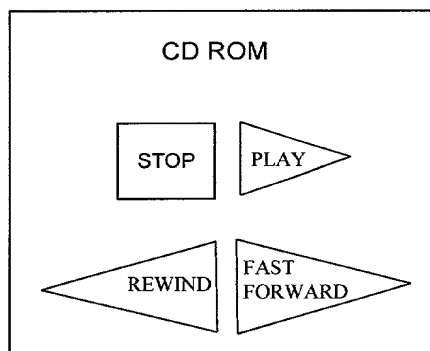


Figure 11

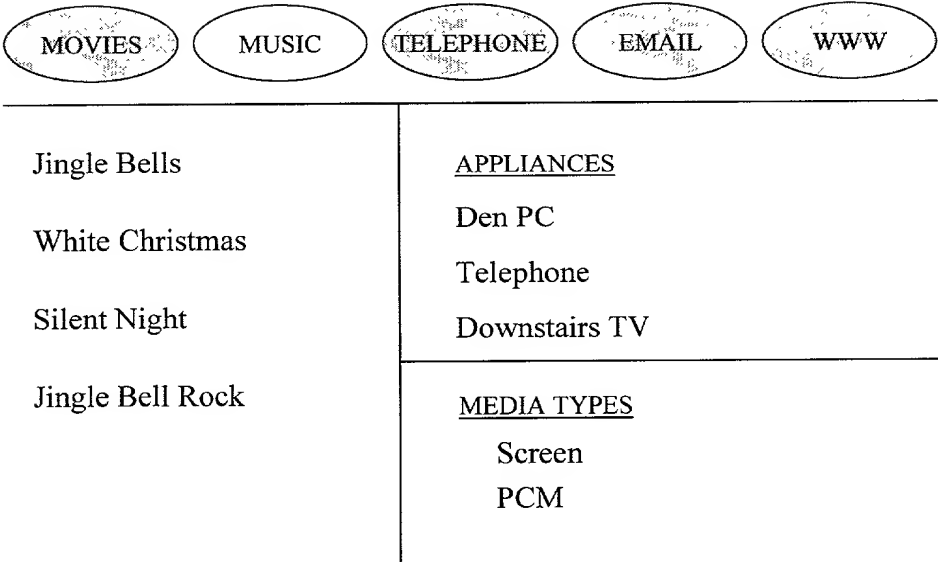
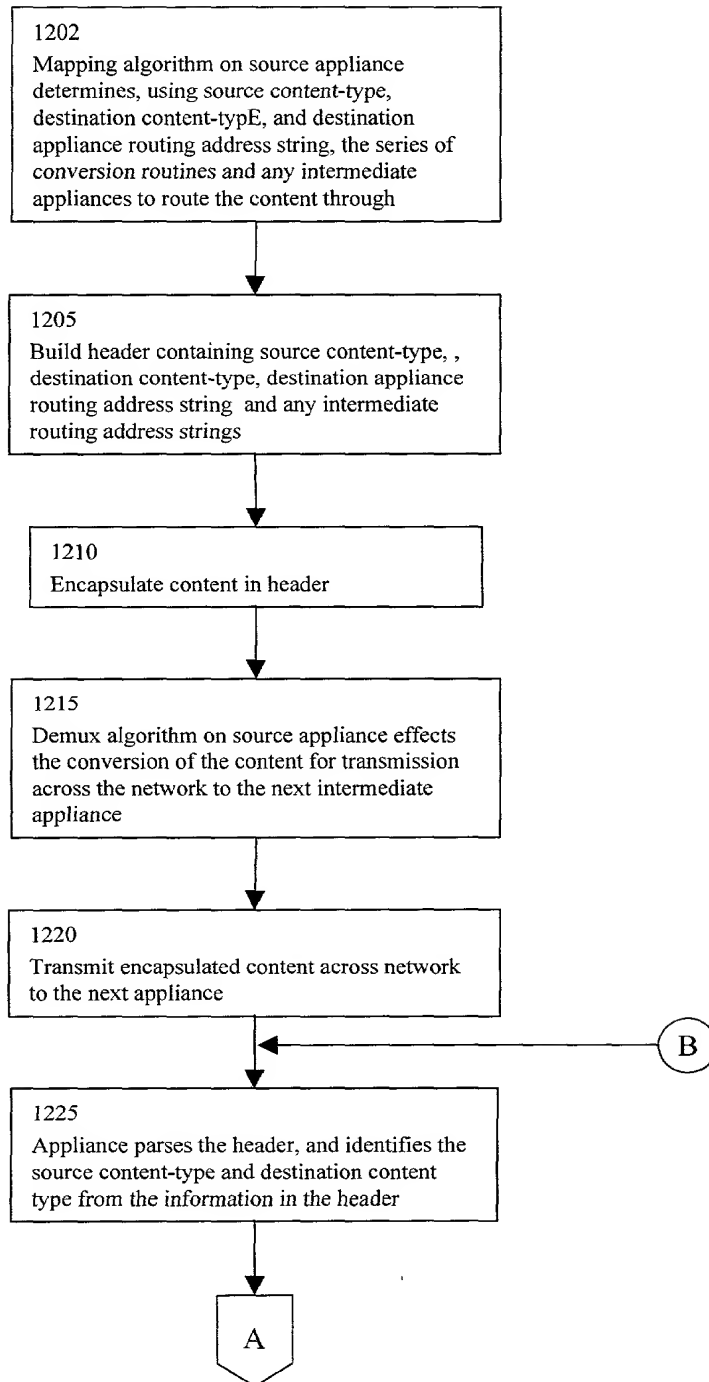
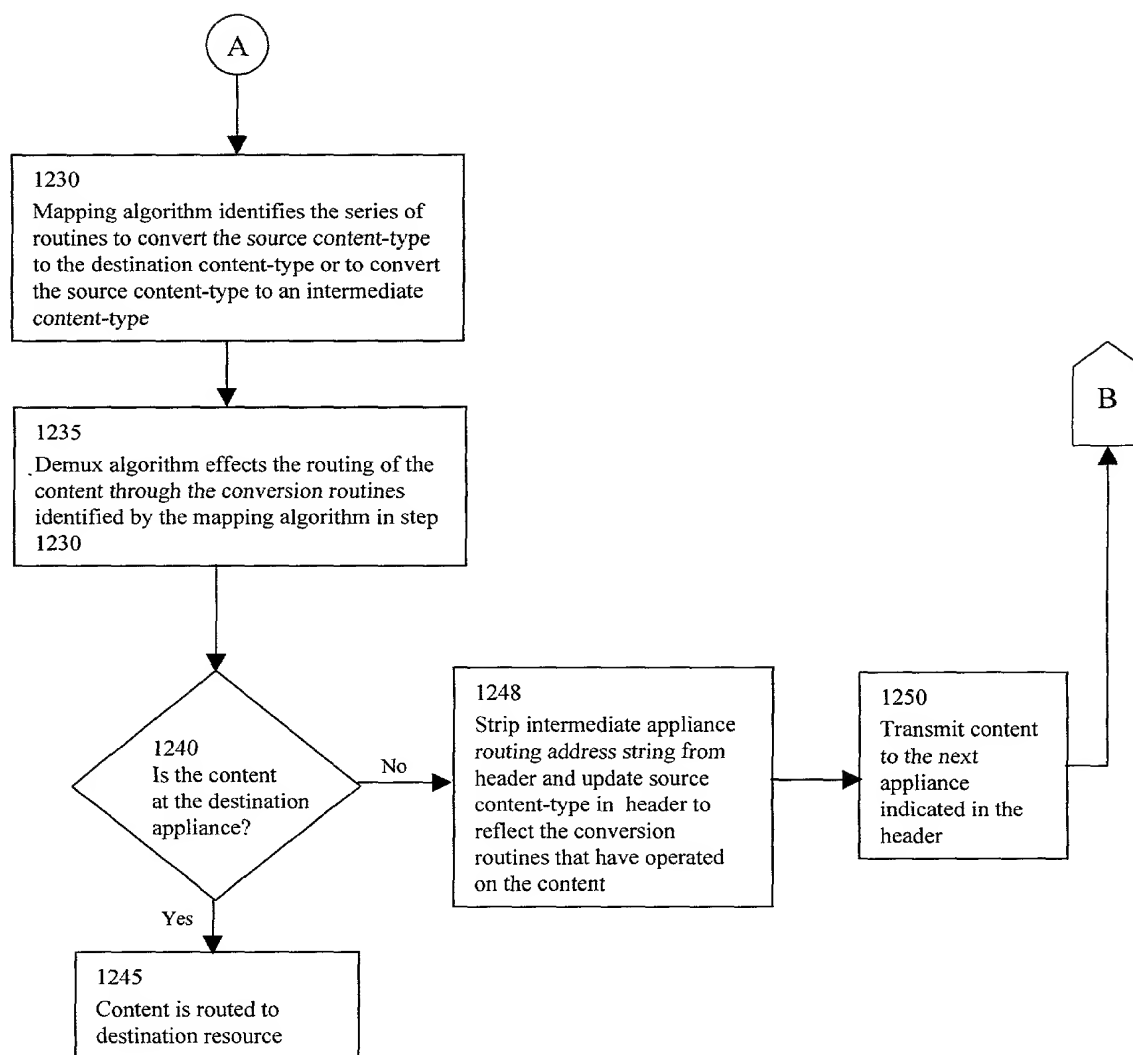


Figure 12a



004020" 91035760

Figure 12b



COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR
ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL
DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CONTINUATION-IN-PART APPLICATION

As a below name inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Media Routing

the specification of which

a. ☒ is attached hereto

b. ☐ was filed on _____ as application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____. (if applicable).

PCT FILED APPLICATION ENTERING NATIONAL STATE

c. ☐ was described and claimed in International Application No. _____ filed on _____ and as amended on _____. (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby specify the following as the correspondence address to which all communications about this application are to be directed:

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P
345 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10154

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: Gerard A. Haddad
(212) 415-8547

☐ I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code § 119(a)-(d) or under § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or under § 365(a) of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the U.S. listed below and also have identified below such foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or such PCT international application(s) filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date within twelve (12) months before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

☐ The attached 35 U.S.C. § 119 claim for priority for the application(s) listed below forms a part of this declaration.

004020 : 91030900

<u>Country/PCT</u>	<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Date of filing (day, month, yr)</u>	<u>Date of Issue (day, month, yr)</u>	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
				[] YES [] NO
				[] YES [] NO
				[] YES [] NO

[] I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any U.S. provisional application(s) listed below.

Provisional Application No.

Date of Filing (day, month, yr)

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CONTINUATION-IN-PART OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION(S) (DESIGNATING THE U.S.)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 120 of any United States application(s) or under § 365(c) of any PCT international application(s) designating the U.S. listed below.

<u>US/PCT Application Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status (patented, pending, abandoned)/ U.S. application no. assigned (For PCT)</u>

<u>US/PCT Application Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status (patented, pending, abandoned)/ U.S. application no. assigned (For PCT)</u>

[] In this continuation-in-part application, insofar as the subject matter of any of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the above listed prior United States or PCT international application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or Imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: John A. Diaz (Reg. No. 19,550), John C. Vassil (Reg. No. 19,098), Alfred P. Ewert (Reg. No. 19,887), David H. Pfeffer, P.C. (Reg. No. 19,825), Harry C. Marcus (Reg. No. 22,390), Robert E. Paulson (Reg. No. 21,046), Stephen R. Smith (Reg. No. 22,615), Kurt E. Richter (Reg. No. 24,052), J. Robert Dailey (Reg. No. 27,434), Eugene Moroz (Reg. No. 25,237), John F. Sweeney (Reg. No. 27,471), Arnold I. Rady (Reg. No. 26,601), Christopher A. Hughes (Reg. No. 26,914), William S. Feiler (Reg. No. 26,728), Joseph A

Calvaruso (Reg. No. 28,287), James W. Gould (Reg. No. 28,859), Richard C. Komson (Reg. No. 27,913), Israel Blum (Reg. No. 26,710), Bartholomew Verdirame (Reg. No. 28,483), Maria C.H. Lin (Reg. No. 29,323), Joseph A. DeGirolamo (Reg. No. 28,595), Michael A. Nicodema (Reg. No. 33,199), Michael P. Dougherty (Reg. No. 32,730), Seth J. Atlas (Reg. No. 32,454), Andrew M. Riddles (Reg. No. 31,657), Bruce D. DeRenzi (Reg. No. 33,676), Michael M. Murray (Reg. No. 32,537), Mark J. Abate (Reg. No. 32,527), Alfred L. Haffner, Jr. (Reg. No. 18,919), Harold Haidt (Reg. No. 17,509), John T. Gallagher (Reg. No. 35,516), Steven F. Meyer (Reg. No. 35,613) and Kenneth H. Sonnenfeld (Reg. No. 33,285) of Morgan & Finnegan, L.L.P. whose address is: 345 Park Avenue, New York, New York, 10154; and Edward A. Pennington (Reg. No. 32,588), Michael S. Marcus (Reg. No. 31,727) and John E. Hoel (Reg. No. 26,279) of Morgan & Finnegan, L.L.P., whose address is 1775 Eye Street, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20006.

☐ I hereby authorize the U.S. attorneys and/or agents named hereinabove to accept and follow instructions from

_____ as to any action to be taken in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorneys and/or agents and me. In the event of a change in the person(s) from whom instructions may be taken I will so notify the U.S. attorneys and/or agents hereinabove.

Full name of sole or first inventor Edward Balassanian

Inventor's signature* SLP TC

date 2-4-00

Residence 12724 NE 94th CT, Kirkland WA, 98033

Citizenship United States

Post Office Address 12724 NE 94th CT, Kirkland, WA., 98033

Full name of second joint inventor, if any _____

Inventor's signature* _____

date _____

Residence _____

Citizenship _____

Post Office Address _____

☐ ATTACHED IS ADDED PAGE TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR SIGNATURE BY THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT INVENTORS FORM.

* Before signing this declaration, each person signing must:

1. Review the declaration and verify the correctness of all information therein; and
2. Review the specification and the claims, including any amendments made to the claims.

After the declaration is signed, the specification and claims are not to be altered.

To the inventor(s):

The following are cited in or pertinent to the declaration attached to the accompanying application:

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulation, § 1.56

Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

(a) A patent by its very nature is affect with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- and (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application,
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

Title 35, U.S. Code § 101

Inventions patentable

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Title 35 U.S. Code § 102

Conditions for patentability; novelty and loss of right to patent

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent,
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States, or
- (c) he has abandoned the invention, or

004020 9T030400

(d) the invention was first patented or caused to be patented, or was the subject of an inventor's certificate, by the applicant or his legal representatives or assigns in a foreign country prior to the date of the application for patent in this country on an application for patent or inventor's certificate filed more than twelve months before the filing of the application in the United States, or

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or

(f) he did not himself invent the subject matter sought to be patented, or

(g) before the applicant's invention thereof the invention was made in this country by another had not abandoned, suppressed, or concealed it. In determining priority of invention there shall be considered not only the respective dates of conception and reduction to practice of the invention, but also the reasonable diligence of one who was first to conceive and last to reduce to practice, from a time prior to conception by the other ...

Title 35, U.S. Code § 103

Conditions for patentability; non-obvious subject matter

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Title 35, U.S. Code § 112 (in part)

Specification

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise and exact terms also enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is mostly nearly connected, to make and use the same, and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Title 35, U.S. Code § 119

Benefit of earlier filing date in foreign country; right of priority

An application for patent for an invention filed in this country by any person who has, or whose legal representatives or assigns have, previously regularly filed an application for a patent for the same invention in a foreign country which affords similar privileges in the case of applications filed in the United States or to citizens of the United States, shall have the same effect as the same application would have if filed in this country on the date on which the application for patent for the same invention was first filed in such foreign country, if the application in this country is filed within twelve months from the earliest date on which such foreign application was filed; but no patent shall be granted on any application for patent for an invention which had been patented or described in a printed publication in any country more than one year before the date of the

actual filing of the application in this country, or which had been in public use or on sale in this country more than one year prior to such filing.

Title 35, U.S. Code § 120

Benefit or earlier filing date in the United States

An application for patent for an invention disclosed in the manner provided by the first paragraph of section 112 of this title in an application previously filed in the United States, or as provided by section 363 of this title, which is filed by an inventor or inventors named in the previously filed application shall have the same effect, as to such invention, as though filed on the date of the prior application, if filed before the patenting or abandonment of or termination of proceedings on the first application or an application similarly entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the first application and if it contains or is amended to contain a specific reference to the earlier filed application.

Please read carefully before signing the Declaration attached to the accompanying Application.

If you have any questions, please contact Morgan & Finnegan, L.L.P.

FORM:COMB-DEC.NY
Rev. 01/04/99